[Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala]

provided more powers. Discussions have taken place on the issues like rights and autonomy to be given to states. Now, the federal structure will be considered. Many years ago, it had been said that the recommendations of the Sarkaria Commission Report would be implemented. We had demanded the setting up of Sarkaria Commission and it was after great difficulties that this commission was set up. The Commission had prepared its report in two volumes after a lot of hard work. But that Report has been stacked away and is now gathering dust. For the last 10 years, the report has not seen the light of the day. Previous Government had started saying that the recommendations of Sarkaria Commission would be implemented, that states would be provided more powers and work would be done in regard to federal structure. United Front Government had took initiative in this regard and I hope it will be continued.

I would like to say that we have enough experience of collapse of Governments. People did not like it. Tomorrow there is confidence vote. You should take a decision not to do anything to topple the Government. I request the members that tomorrow there should be a positive vote in the House and that vote should be in favour of the present Government.

17.44 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we will take up matters under Rule 377.

(i) Need to release special grant to State Government of West Bengal to meet Drinking Water Scarcity in Hilly Areas of Darjeeling District

SHRI ANAND PATHAK (Darjeeling) : A serious situation has arisen due to the acute scarcity of drinking water in the hilly areas of the district of Darjeeling, namely, Darjeeling Sadar and two other sub-divisions. The scarcity is felt more seriously in Dadar Sub-division during the summer season. The local population as well as the seasonal tourists miserably suffer during this period due to want of water. They are compelled to purchase bucket of water at the rate of Rs. 10 to Rs. 15. That too is not available sufficiently. Due to lack of water, Hydel Power Project, Irrigation and other essential services are also seriously affected. To ease this situation and remove the scarcity of water, a huge amount of money is required which is beyond the means of the State Government within its limited resources.

I urge upon the Union Government to look into this problem seriously and sanction a special grant from the usual fund sanctioned to the State Government and Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council.

[Translation]

(ii) Need to Fix Support Price of Wheat at Rs. 600 per quintal

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (Patiala) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government has fixed the support price of wheat at Rs. 455 per quintal for the next Rabi crop. We can say that this price is 40 Rs. per quintal more than the last year's price but in reality it is 20 Rs. per quintal less than the last year's support price. Last year's support price was Rs. 415 and a bonus of Rs. 60 per quintal was given. The cost of production in agriculture has increased in comparison to last year but in real terms the Government has reduced the price of wheat in comparison to last year's price. In the present situation if the price of wheat is not increased, a loss of Rs. 200 crore is likely to be suffered by the farmers of Punjab alone. Besides, loss suffered by the farmers of Haryana and Uttar Pradesh is also there. As the farmers are not getting remunerative price for wheat, they have reduced its cultivation and the result is that the Government have to import wheat to meet the requirement of the country. Today wheat is being imported at a price of Rs. 750 per quintal. It is a matter of surprise that the Government is ready to pay Rs. 750 per quintal to the farmers of other countries but paying only Rs. 455 per quintal to the farmers of its own country.

Therefore, I request the Government to fix the support price of wheat at Rs. 600 per quintal so that the farmers may be benefited from the sale of wheat, which in turn may encourage them to produce more wheat and make the country self reliant in the food sector.

(iii) Need to clear the proposal of U.P. Government for Construction of a Canal from Narora Dam to Dataganj

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, two segments of Legislative Assembly in Badaun district comes under Aonla Lok Sabha Constituency. Due to lack of irrigational means, the level of ground water is decreasing day by day in district Badaun. Not even a single canal is there.

* Texts treated as laid on the Table.

Therefore, I demand that a canal should be constructed from Narora Dam to Dataganj. In this regard Uttar Pradesh Government has submitted a proposal to the Central Government. The farmers of Badaun will be benefited in the agriculture production as well as the declining ground water level will also be checked with the construction of this canal.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to conduct a survey in this regard immediately and canal should be constructed during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(iv) Need to formulate a Comprehensive Policy to protect the interests of Farmers

[English]

SHRI S. SUDHAKAR REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, suicides by farmers due to indebtedness in different States is an important issue. Hundreds of farmers are committing suicides every year and this year it has reached alarming proportion. Government should do something to save the peasants. Government should announce a noratorium on the debts of peasants to private money lenders, cooperative societies, banks and other public institutions. Union Government should reimburse to public finance institutions. Particularly peasants holding less than five acres of land should be given this facility. Now, loans without interest should be provided to peasants who suffered loss of crops. All companies which were blackmarked with bogus pesticides and adulterated seeds should be banned and their properties should be confiscated and the compensation should be paid from this amount and Government fund.

I request the Union Government to look into the matter seriously.

17.51 hrs

MOTION OF CONFIDENCE IN THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS--*Contd.*

[Translation]

KUMARI MAYAWATI (Akbarpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, BJP Government is trying to win the vote of confidence by hook or crook and I rise here to oppose the Motion of Confidence moved by this government. Hon. President called the Prime Minister and asked him to handover the letters written in support of his party by its allies so that the hon. President could invite this party to form government. The day this proposal was made by the hon. President, the very next day around 8 o'clock in the early morning a senior leader of BJP who is also very close to hon. Prime Minister called me up and asked me to join the government. He offered me the office of the Home Minister and ministership for one of the four members of my party. I told the senior leader of BJP that our party had such an arrangement twice with BJP and now we are not going to take another chance. We will not join BJP even if they offer me the office of Prime Minister. That senior leader of BJP was very upset on hearing my reply. I received another telephone calls on the second and third day. Not only this but other members of my party were also offered the ministership. They tried to bribe the Members of my party but the members of BSP resisted the temptation.

I would like to inform this august House that the day on which BJP Government was formed and hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee was sworn in as Prime Minister of the country. I heard a news on Delhi Doordarshan that CBI has registered a case against Mayawati in connection with float pump scam. I would like to say that BJP has tried each and every trick in the book when I refused to have any truck with them, they implicated me in a false case of corruption to tarnish my image. They tried to frighten me through political pressure to get vote of my party in support of the Motion of Confidence moved by them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to tell that Mayawati is not a woman who is afraid of anyone and she cannot be lured by any temptation. It is a decision of Bahujan Samaj Party. BJP has used CBI against me for asserting political pressure but I would like to say that they will have to pay for their act. I would also like to say that the case, which has been registered against me did not take place during my tenure but in 1995 when the state was under President's Rule. I am unable to understand as to why they implicated me in it. It clearly indicates that the Government tries to get our vote by asserting political pressure. Therefore, I oppose this Motion of Confidence.

Secondly, I myself as well as BSP oppose this Motion of Confidence because BJP is not a trustworthy party. I would like to say something in this regard. No political party could get clear-cut majority during legislative assembly elections held in U.P. in 1996. No political party was in a position to form government and thus President's Rule was imposed in U.P. Then the leaders of BJP approached Kashiramji and gave proposal to form a coalition government. It was the decision of national leader of BSP and BJP .....*(Interruptions)*